REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9, 14, 17-21, 35-43, 46-52, 55, 56, 61, and 62 were pending in this application when last examined by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 35 have been amended. Claims 63-70 have been added. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 1-9, 14, 17-21, 35-43, 46-52, 55-56, and 61-70 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 14, 17-21, 35-43, 46-52, 55, 56, 61, and 62 are objected due to an informality. Specifically, the Examiner suggested that the term "tracing" in independent claims 1 and 35 be replaced with the term "tracking." Applicant has made the suggested amendment to claims 1 and 35. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 17-20, 35-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Srinivasan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,357,042). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 35 recite "annotation data including only one mask for each video frame." (Emphasis added). Claims 1 and 35 also require that "two or more video objects appear[] in each video frame." (Emphasis added). Thus, according to claims 1 and 35, there is only one mask for the two or more video objects.

In marked contrast, Srinivasan teaches that when multiple image entities are to be tracked, multiple annotation data streams with image tracking coordinates are generated -- one for each image entity. (See, Col. 14, lines 26 - Col. 15, line 17) (Emphasis added). In fact, Srinivasan discloses using a separate authoring station to generate a separate annotation data stream for each separate image to be tracked. (Col. 14, lines 45-48). If separate authoring stations generate separate annotation data streams, these separate stations cannot generate "only one mask" for two or more image entities. Instead, multiple masks would have to be created. Furthermore, even though Srinivasan teaches that the separately generated annotation data streams may eventually be combined into a single stream, this also fails to teach or suggest

"annotation data including only one mask for each video frame." Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 35 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of Shoff. Claims 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations that they contain.

Claims 21, 50-52, 55, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of Wistendahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,981). Claims 21, 50-52, 55, and 56 are in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations that they contain.

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of Oguro et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0033739). Claim 42 is in condition for allowance because it depends on an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations that it contains.

Claims 61 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan in view of Kaiser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,408). Claims 61 and 62 are in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations that they contain.

Claims 63-70 are new in this application. Claims 63 and 67 are new independent claims that require "annotation data including a plurality of masks and a plurality of object data packets . . . each mask being associated with the corresponding annotation data timing information and with an identifier to an object mapping table included in at least a particular one of the plurality of object data packets, the object mapping table including an entry associated with each of the one or more video objects in the particular video frame, each entry in the object mapping table referencing one or more information data structures included in one or more of the plurality of object data packets, the information data structures including information associated with the corresponding video object." None of the cited references teach or suggest the recited "annotation data." Although Srinivasan discloses that innovative material may be added to the video data stream, such as text overlay, graphic icons and logos for advertisement, nothing in
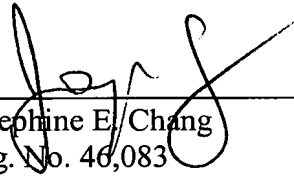
Srinivasan teaches or suggests the claimed "object mapping table" and "information data structures" to organize such innovative material and associate them to specific image entities appearing in a video frame. Accordingly, claims 63 and 67 are in condition for allowance.

New claims 64-66 and 68-70 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain. Specifically with respect to claim 66, this claim states that "the receiver is further configured to: receive a user selection associated with one of the overlaid graphics images for a particular video frame; retrieve the identifier of the object mapping table from the mask corresponding to the particular video frame responsive to the user selection; retrieve the object mapping table based on the retrieved identifier; locate the entry in the object mapping table for the video object associated with the user selection; identify the information data structures referenced in the located entry; retrieve the information in the information data structures; and display the retrieved information on a display device." Claim 70 is a method counterpart to claim 66. Because none of the cited references teach or suggest the claimed "object mapping table" and "information data structures," the cited references also fail to teach or suggest a receiver that is configured to interact with the "object mapping table" and "information data structures" in the manner claimed in claims 66 and 70. Accordingly, claims 66 and 70 are also in condition for allowance for this added limitation.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 1-9, 14, 17-21, 35-43, 46-52, 55-56, and 61-70 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By _____
Josephine E. Chang
Reg. No. 46,083
626/795-9900